

# Wal-Mart grand opening scheduled for Wednesday

By GARY BASS  
Staff writer

At about 220,000 square feet, the new Wal-Mart Supercenter has almost three times the space of the existing store located at 2215 S. First St. For a little more perspective, that's roughly the size of six football fields.

After about a year of construction, the new store, which is located across the street from the old location at 2500 Daniel McCall Drive, will have its grand opening on Wednesday. The Supercenter will employ approximately 555 people, or "associates."

"Wal-Mart Supercenter has been designed as a one-stop family shopping center," Blake Woolsey, a spokeswoman for Wal-Mart, said. "It will be open to customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

In addition, the store will feature a Tire & Lube Express, Vision Center, snack bar, portrait studio, hair salon, nail salon, one-hour photo, SnowBiz and a pharmacy.

At 7 a.m. Wednesday, the associates of the new Supercenter will celebrate the grand opening by contributing \$21,000 to community organizations and causes through Wal-Mart's "Good Works" community involvement program.

Checks will be presented to Recruit's Teacher, Lufkin Fire Department, Red Ribbon Task Force, Salvation Army Women's Shelter of East Texas, Neon Lion's Club, Main Street Lufkin, Kiwanis International, United Way of Lufkin, Children's Miracle Network (Mother Francis Hospital), Boys and Girls Club of Deep East Texas, Lufkin Police Department, Qualls Unlimited, Texas State Forest Festival, Texas Forestry Museum, Court Appointed Special Advocates, East Texas

Angel Network, Hudson Police Department, Huntington Police Department, Ellen Trout Zoo (environmental grant), Lufkin High School (Teacher of the Year), Diboll Police Department, Angelina College Library, Diboll Public Library, McMullen Memorial Library, East Texas Get Hooked on Fishing and St. Patrick Catholic Church and School.

During the grand opening ceremony, one charter associate, Barbara Sharp, will be recognized for her 26 years of service to the company.

The 16 associates who have been with the Lufkin Wal-Mart more than 20 years will also be recognized. Together, these employees have given a combined 316 years of service. They include Mike Scott (1962), Mary Laenger (1962), Olga Clark (1979), Theta Davis (1980), LaVerne Dierling (1978), Sharp, Estelle Fregia (1981), Charlene Benson (1979), James Luce (1981) and Mary Windsor (1981).

The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders will be on hand to sign autographs from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Angelina County Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber Coalition for a Better Community thanks Wal-Mart for their generous contribution," Janet Taylor, executive director for the Chamber Coalition for a Better Community, said. "Wal-Mart's ongoing commitment of time, talents and resources to projects like these make them a vital community partner."

In addition to the financial support Wal-Mart is providing to Lufkin and Angelina County, the Good Works program encourages store associates to volunteer with charitable and educational organizations, too.

Our associates already are active members of many good causes throughout

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